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DSL-BQA-01-036

To: Home Health Agencies

HHA - 16

From: Jan Eakins, Chief
Provider Regulation and Quality Improvement Section

cc: Susan Schroeder, Director
Bureau of Quality Assurance

Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS) Update

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide you with information related to:

- Guidance on OASIS wound status data items.
- September training in OASIS: The Basics.
- Revisions to the OASIS Implementation Manual, Part 1.
- Telephone number changes on OASIS Privacy Act Statements.
- Availability of current home health Interpretive Guidelines.
- HAVEN Patch 5.1
- Accessing OBQM Reports and Internet Explorer 5.5

Guidance on OASIS Wound Status Data Items

The Bureau of Quality Assurance (BQA) received the attached memorandum, Ref: S&C 21, dated August 6, 2001, from the Center for Medicaid and State Operations under the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), formerly the Health Care Financing Administration.

The memo and its attachments, effective August 6, 2001, clarify and define the terms “fully granulating, early/partial granulation and not healing” for OASIS wound data items. The information provided is a result of collaborative efforts between CMS and the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society (WOCN). Home health agency (HHA) clinicians may find this guidance helpful in completing their patient assessments. These are guidelines only and do not represent a change in home health regulations. HHAs are **not** required to correct previously encoded and transmitted assessments. More information on the WOCN guidelines may be found at the WOCN website at www.wocn.org.

September Training in OASIS: The Basics

The BQA is presenting the third annual “OASIS: The Basics” workshop in September 2001. The workshop is intended to provide a working knowledge of OASIS regulations and state/federal survey protocols for home health agency staff new to using OASIS collection, encoding and transmission or staff who wish to update their knowledge.

Workshop dates and locations

The workshop will be held on the following dates at two different locations:

- September 19, 2001
Westwood Conference Center, Wausau.

- September 20, 2001
Comfort Inn, Madison

Training brochure and registration form

A detailed training brochure and registration form are available on the State OASIS System Welcome Page by clicking on *Bulletins*. The registration deadline is September 5, 2001.

Further information on training

Contact Leann Griffin, Training Officer, at (608) 267-1438, for further information on the OASIS workshops.

**Revisions to the OASIS
Implementation Manual, Part 1**

The CMS has revised the OASIS Implementation Manual, Part 1, as of April 2001. The revised manual is available on the OASIS website at www.hcfa.gov/medicaid/oasis/usermanu.htm. A comparison table showing changes between the previous version (7/99) and the revised version (April 2001) is also available at that website.

The manual was revised to update language to be consistent with current Prospective Payment System regulations and to clarify frequently asked questions.

HHAs should print new manuals to be assured that their manual is complete and accurate.

**Telephone Number Changes on OASIS
Privacy Act Statements**

The telephone numbers on the Privacy Act Statements have changed. The new numbers are reflected on the revised Privacy Act statements available on the OASIS website at www.hcfa.gov/medicaid/oasis/ptprvnot.htm.

HHAs should use the new numbers in their patient information. HHAs may download the new statements or may write the new numbers on their existing Privacy Act Statements and cross out the old telephone numbers. The numbers have changed for both regular and TTY lines on both the English and Spanish versions. The current numbers still transfer the caller to the new numbers, but that will change in the future.

**Current HHA Interpretive
Guidelines Available**

The CMS has made available Appendix B, Home Health Agency Interpretive Guidelines, from the State Operations Manual. These guidelines contain all current home health regulations, survey guidance and deficiency tag information currently in use by the state survey agencies.

HHAs may download these guidelines from either of the following sites:

- The federal OASIS website at www.hcfa.gov/medicaid/oasis/hhregs.htm.
- The State OASIS System Welcome Page by clicking on *Bulletins*.

HAVEN 5.1 Patch

HHAs that use HAVEN should download and install the HAVEN 5.1 patch. This patch corrects problems with HAVEN 5.0 and also includes the ability to print entire assessments with the click of a button, rather than printing each page. The patch and a complete list of the fixes and enhancements are available on the CMS website at www.hcfa.gov/medicaid/oasis/havensof.htm.

Accessing OBQM Reports

Internet Explorer users may experience a blank screen/browser when attempting to view the Outcome-Based Quality Management (OBQM) reports. This is attributed to the use of Internet Explorer Version 5.5. The workarounds for this are:

1. Remove the #Reportx from the end of the web page address, which will bring up the whole pdf file, including all reports. Move to the top of the page to locate the first report, or
2. Use Netscape

Resources

Please direct questions, including questions related to the attached CMS memo, to the resource contacts listed below:

Software and OASIS data transmission:

- Chris Benesh, OASIS Automation Coordinator, 608-266-1718 or benesce@dhfs.state.wi.us.
- Cindy Symons, OASIS Technical Analyst, 608-266-9675 or symonc@dhfs.state.wi.us.

OASIS clinical issues:

- Andrea Henrich, OASIS Education Coordinator, 608-267-3807 or henriam@dhfs.state.wi.us.

Home health regulations/interpretive guidance:

- Barbara Woodford, HH Education Coordinator, 715-855-7310 or woodfba@dhfs.state.wi.us.

Pharmacy/medication issues:

- Douglas Englebert, Pharmacy Practice Consultant, 608-266-5388 or engleda@dhfs.state.wi.us.

Medicare payment and billing issues:

- Medicare Provider Relations at United Government Services, 1-877-309-4290.

Attachments